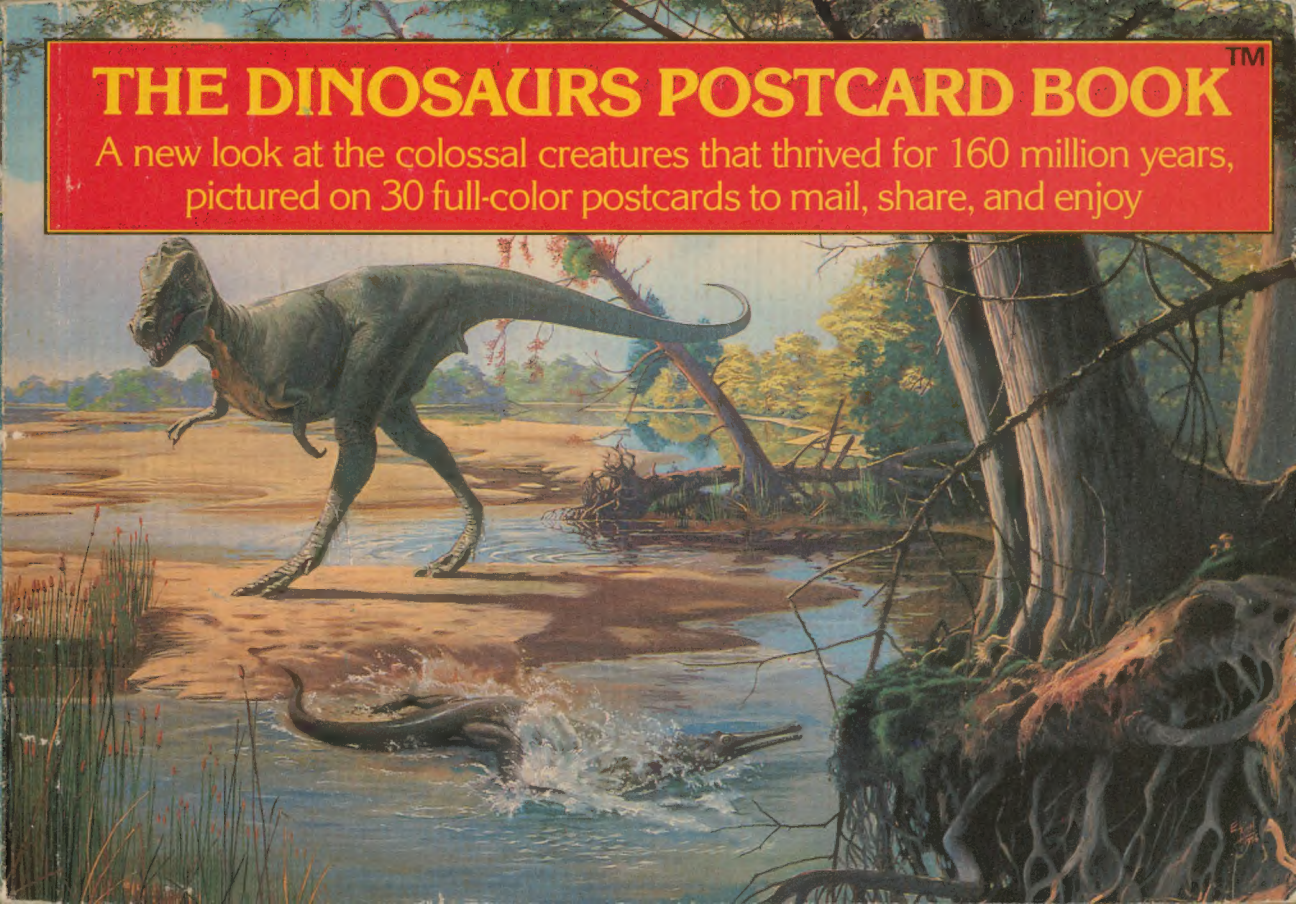
THE DINOSAURS POSTCARD BOOK™

A new look at the colossal creatures that thrived for 160 million years, pictured on 30 full-color postcards to mail, share, and enjoy



THE DINOSAURS POSTCARD BOOK

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PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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Millions of years before the birth of the first human, dinosaurs ruled the earth.

What were they like, these tremendous beasts of a lost world? How did they live? Why did they die? The pieces of this puzzle are buried around the globe: in the grasslands of Montana, in the Mongolian desert, in the floodplains of Argentina.

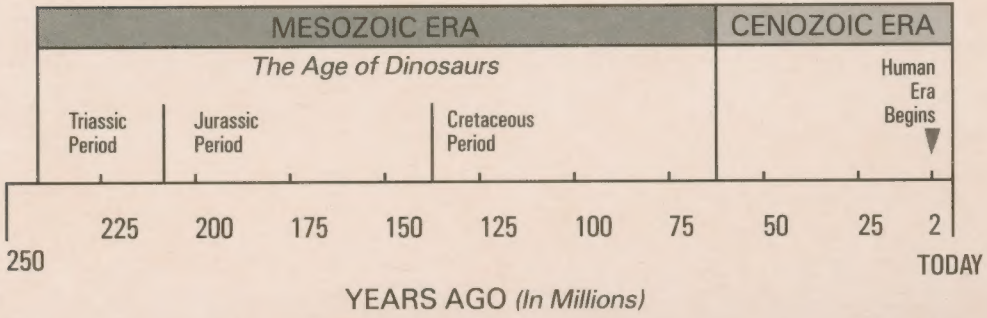
More than 225 million years later, we are still fitting these pieces together. Recent discoveries have forced us to redraw our picture of these "terrible lizards." Museums around the world are remounting their exhibits to bring them up to date with the latest findings. New evidence shows that some species had complex family lives, with mother dinosaurs nurturing their young until they could care for themselves. Some dinosaurs may even have been born live, rather than hatched from eggs.

No longer can we think of dinosaurs as lone, lumbering, flesh-hungry goliaths destroying everything in their paths. We now know that the hundreds of varieties of dinosaurs possessed a range of characteristics almost as varied as the animals of the modern world: While the recently discovered Seismosaurus may have been 120 feet long, the smallest

dinosaur was about the size of a chicken. Some dinosaurs hunted in packs, some grazed in herds, and some were scavengers. Some could run as fast as 30 miles an hour.

These art works from the world's foremost paleontological artists reflect contemporary and classic theories on the appearance, habits, and habitat of dinosaurs. Here you will find an accurate portrayal of a strange world that is only now being disclosed to us, a world of diversity beyond imagination, and a world that inexplicably ended millions of years ago.

No human has ever seen a dinosaur. But we are getting closer every day.



Stenonychosaurus by Ron Seguin in collaboration with Dr. Dale Russell, National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada. Unlike many other dinosaurs, this one had a relatively large brain and may have been nocturnal.

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Two of the Great Horned Dinosaurs Triceratops by Eleanor M. Kish, © 1977 by the National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada. Despite their three fierce-looking horns, these Triceratops were plant-eaters.

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Duck-billed Dinosaur Saurolophus with a Plesiosaur in the Background by Eleanor M. Kish, © 1977 by the National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada. The Saurolophus grew to about 30 feet on average. No one knows the purpose of the bony, crest-like ridge on its skull.

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Stegosaurus by Vladimir Krb, © 1985 by the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Alberta, Canada. The plates on the back of this plant-eating dinosaur may have helped it to regulate its body temperature.

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Herd of Placeria with Lythrodynastes and Gingko Tree. © 1986 by Doug Henderson, in cooperation with Rob Long and the Petrified Forest Museum Association. Pictured here are two animals contemporary with early dinosaurs during the Late Triassic Period.

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Ostrich Dinosaur Dromiceiomimus by Eleanor M. Kish, © 1977 by the National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada. This creature had a relatively large brain and enormous eye sockets.

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Tyrannosaurus Rex, © 1979 by Sylvia Czerkas. The "tyrant lizard" has long been considered the most ferocious dinosaur, but one current theory suggests that it may have been primarily a scavenger rather than a predator.

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Maiasaura Nesting Area, © 1985 by Doug Henderson. This peaceable species of duck-billed dinosaur was unknown until 1978, when an 80-million-year-old nesting ground was discovered in the western Montana prairie.

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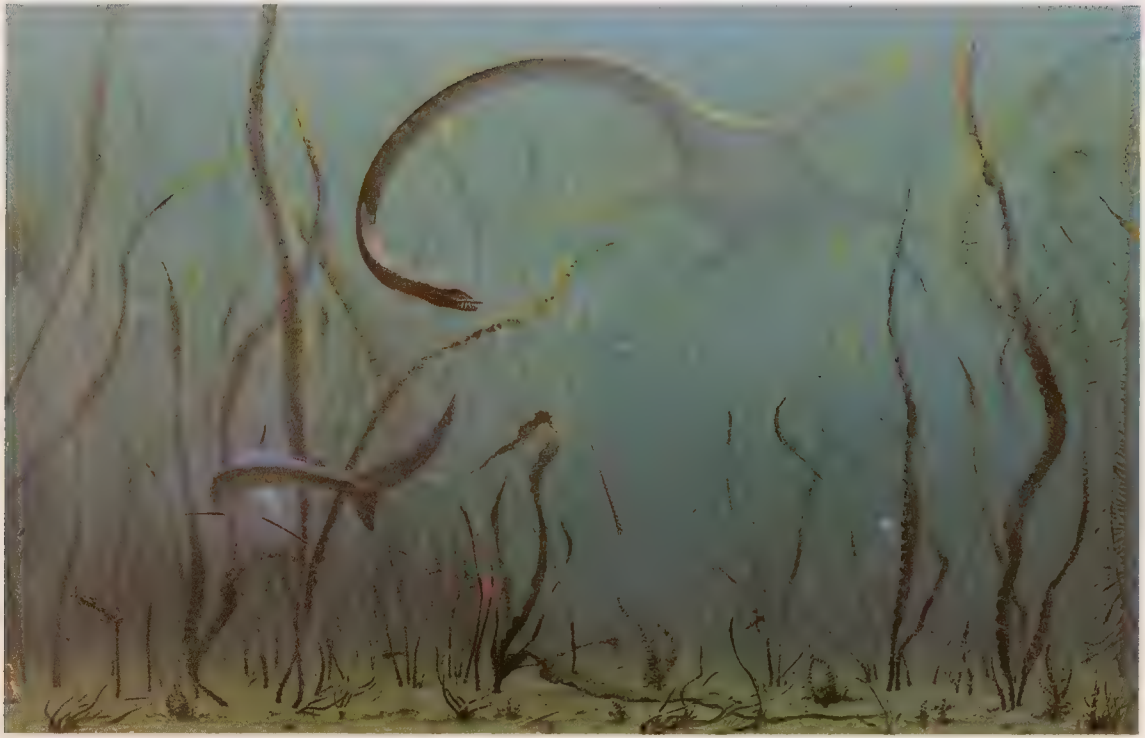

Elasmosaurus by Vladimir Krb, © 1985 by the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Alberta, Canada. This long-necked plesiosaur, an extinct aquatic reptile, made its home in a shallow sea that covered much of what is now Alberta.

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Seismosaur with Three Allosaurs, © 1986 by Doug Henderson in cooperation with David Gillette. The 40-foot long Allosaurs were among the largest Jurassic predators, but they were dwarfed by the largest plant-eater, the 120-foot long Seismosaur, discovered in 1986. Allosaurs may have hunted in packs, but would they have attacked a Seismosaur?

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Stegosaurus by Charles R. Knight, © American Museum of Natural History, No. 2441(2), courtesy Department Library Services. The spikes at the end of its tail were a defense against predators. The earliest known Stegosaurid lived during the Middle Jurassic Period.

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Claws and Teeth Against Horns and Beaks, © 1984 by Mark Hallett. The carnivorous Tyrannosaurus rex is pictured here attacking a herd of Triceratops. This illustrates the theories that Tyrannosaurus hunted in packs, and that Triceratops banded together for defense.

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Daspletosaurus and a Fleeing Champsosaurus by Eleanor M. Kish, © 1977 by the National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada. The giant Daspletosaurus grew to 30 feet and weighed up to two and a half tons.

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The Age of Reptiles, Cretaceous Period. Detail of the Pulitzer Prize-winning mural by Rudolph Zallinger, late 1940s. Courtesy of the Yale Peabody Museum, © Yale University. Present-day plants appeared with the dawn of the Cretaceous Period.

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Dinosaur into Bird, © 1985 by Mark Hallett. This illustration depicts a theory that today's birds descended from a group of small dinosaurs. If some dinosaurs did evolve into birds, the process took many millions of years.

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Stampede: Camarasaurus and Allosaurus, © 1980 by Bob Walters. The Camarasaurus had enormous nostrils directly in front of its eyes and large, chisel-like teeth. The Allosaurus was a carnivore that could grow up to 40 feet.

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Stegosaurus. © 1986 by Stephen Czerkas. This modern reconstruction depicts the Stegosaurus as having a single row of plates on its back rather than a double row, as was once believed.

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Mamenchisaurus Crossing the Flats, © 1986 by Mark Hallett. Discovered in Sichuan, China, this plant-eating dinosaur had an incredibly long neck—over 33 feet.

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Late Cretaceous Scene by Vladimir Krb, © 1985 by the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Alberta, Canada. A pair of flying pterosaurs arrive to join a pack of agile Dromaeosaurids in scavenging the carcass of a Centrosaurus. All these reptiles lived more than 75 million years ago.

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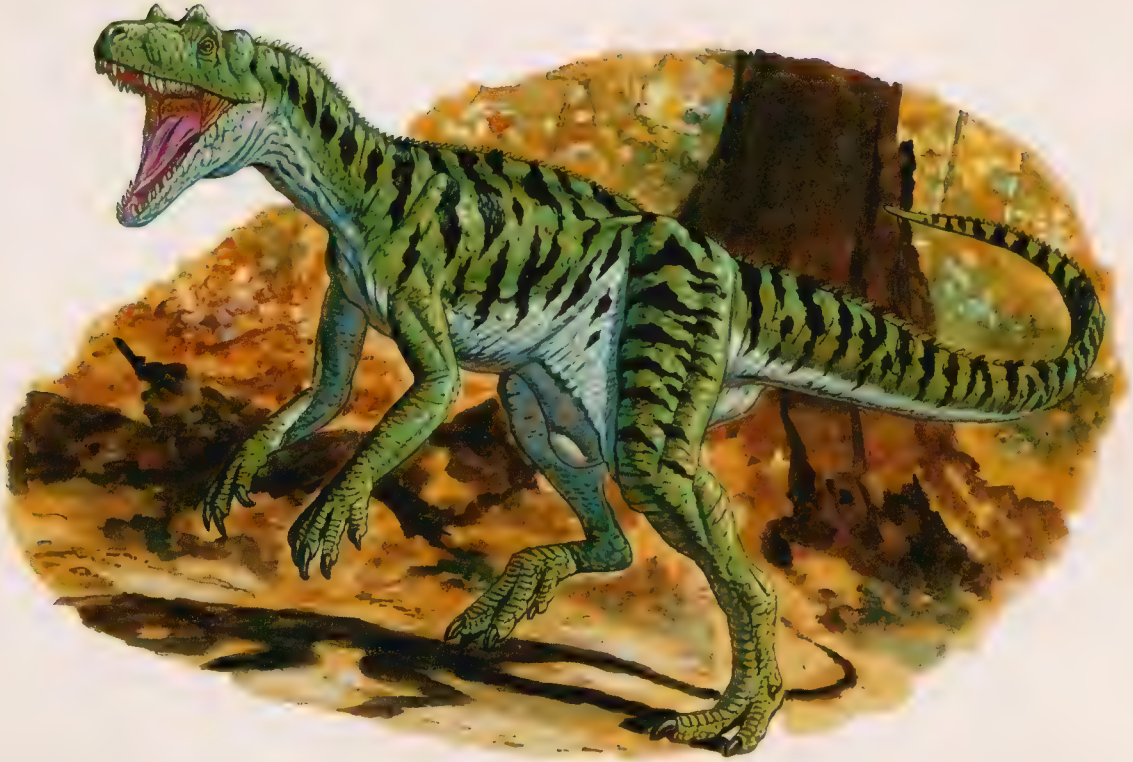

Herrerasaurus, © 1981 by Mark Hallett. Possibly one of the first meat-eating dinosaurs, the Herrerasaurus lived in the Middle to Late Triassic Period. Its bones were discovered in Argentina in 1963.

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Ornithischia, © 1987 by William Stout. This order of plant-eating dinosaurs included the Saurolophus (some of which had headcrests with which they may have made trumpeting sounds) and the spiny Stegosaurus (shown next to bottom).

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The Age of Reptiles, Triassic Period. Detail of mural by Rudolph Zallinger, late 1940s, courtesy of the Yale Peabody Museum, © Yale University. In this dry, desert-like environment, the first dinosaurs appeared.

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Duck-billed Dinosaur Hypacrosaurus by Eleanor M. Kish, © 1977 by the National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada. Fossils found in Alberta show that this large duck-billed dinosaur had a high, helmet-like crest.

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Monster Dinosaurs: Tyrannosaurus, Styracosaurus, and Brachiosaurus, © 1982 by Bob Walters. The Tyrannosaurus may have been the largest of the carnivorous dinosaurs. The Styracosaurus had a bony frill around its skull which may have attracted mates. The Brachiosaurus had a very long neck.

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Allosaurus, © 1986 by Stephen Czerkas. One of the most dangerous predators of the Jurassic Period, this heavily-built dinosaur had taloned claws.

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Camarasaurus by Vladimir Krb, © 1985 by the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Alberta, Canada. Growing up to 60 feet long, this plant-eating dinosaur from the Jurassic Period had dozens of peg-like teeth for cropping vegetation.

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Marine Lizard Platecarpus Feeding on Baculites Obtusus by Eleanor M. Kish, 1977 by the National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada. Marine reptiles like these flourished during the Jurassic Period, 200 to 135 million years ago.

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The Red Huntress, © 1984 by Mark Hallett. The small, graceful Coelophysis had a long jaw filled with sharp teeth useful for catching prey.

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Triceratops, © 1985 by Mark Hallett. One of the last dinosaurs to become extinct, the Triceratops measured 30 feet long and weighed about 12 tons.

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Tyrannosaurus Rex, © 1986 by the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Alberta, Canada. Its enormous head and jaws, combined with its deadly-sharp teeth, make a convincing argument for the ferocity of this beast. But with such a massive, heavy head, could it have moved fast enough to pursue live prey?

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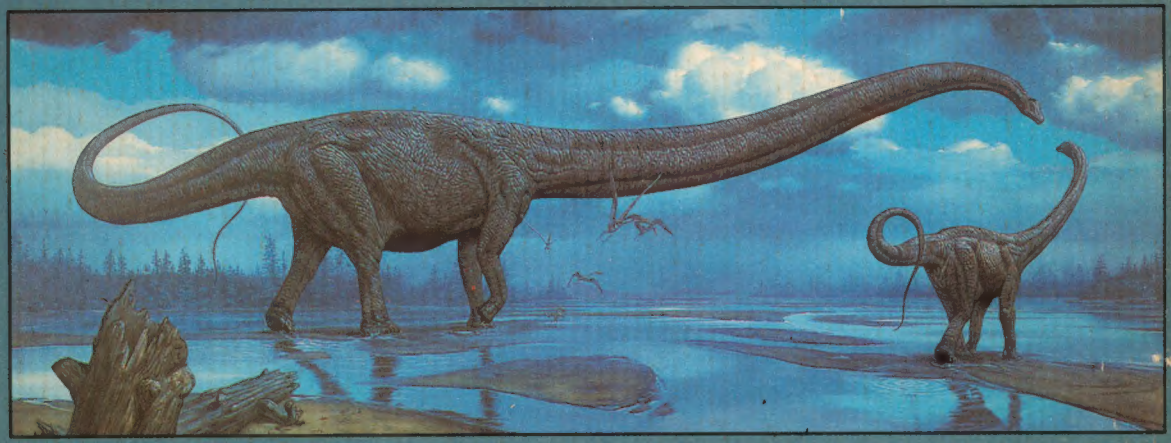
"... when the last individual of a race of living things breathes no more, another heaven and another earth must pass before such a one can be again."

– William Beebe
First Curator of Birds
The Bronx Zoo



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